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To Whom It May Concern:

It recently came to my attention that you are contemplating the use of OSHA and its mandate to provide a safe working environment for all US workers, to effectively ban smoking in the work place. I believe this to be excessive use of government intervention.

As I understand the proposed legislation, employers would be in violation of the law if an employee were smoking in a car while performing work related duties. Restaurant workers could not work in an area where patrons were permitted to smoke. I couldn't even have a personal office designated as a smoking area because other employees might be asked to come into my office. How ridiculous can the long arm of Uncle Sam get?

Restaurants, public arenas, and many businesses are making decisions about smoking that are driven by their response to customer or constituency demands. Aside from the media attention given to radical proposals such as the OSHA or Waxman bills, I believe the general public is satisfied with the current approaches to dealing with smoking in the work place. I think the smoking versus the non-smoking interests are being balanced quite nicely by the private sector and local governments.

We do not need this level of intrusion into personal or local levels of government!

Sincerely,